

COMMUNICATIONS TOOL KIT

EXHIBITION HER PLACE: WOMEN IN THE WEST

HER PLACE

WOMEN IN THE WEST

7 - 31 MARCH 2017 VU AT METRO WEST

www.herplacemuseum.com

**SUSAN ALBERTI AC
PAOLA BALLA
RUTH CROW AM
MAISIE CARR (NEE FAWCETT)
KERRY GREENWOOD
JOAN KIRNER AC
MELBA MARGINSON
HALIMA MOHAMED
ALICE PUNG
PETA SEARLE**



Proudly supported by the Victorian Government

This toolkit has been developed as a resource for media, individuals and groups who would like raise awareness of the exhibition *Her Place: Women in the West* and Her Place Women's Museum Australia.

This toolkit contains:

- About Her Place Women's Museum
- Information about the exhibition
- Bios of the 10 women featured in the exhibition
- Public Program information
- Template website copy
- Social media guide
- Image credit information



Her Place Women's Museum Australia

Telephone: 0477 411 089

Email: info@herplacemuseum.com

Facebook: [/herplacemuseum](#)

Instagram: [/herplacemuseum](#)

www.herplacemuseum.com

THE ORGANISATION

Her Place honours Australian women, inspires young people and educates everyone.

Her Place is a not-for-profit organisation that celebrates the social, civic and entrepreneurial achievements of all Australian women and their role in shaping our nation.

It originated in 2014 when a group of women from diverse backgrounds met to discuss forming a group to honour the achievements of women and investigate the possibility of establishing a museum dedicated to the cause.

Her Place's vision is to create a public space that honours the achievements of women, through exhibitions, public programs, education resources and an archive.

In 2016 Her Place merged with Women's Heritage Centre Victoria, an organisation established in 2015, dedicated to creating a physical keeping place for women's records and a living digital archive that acknowledges the distinctive contribution of women to the culture and future of Victoria.

Together the organisation received seed funding from the State Government through its Gender Equity Strategy in December 2016 to investigate the capacity to create an online museum and archive and develop a series of touring exhibitions that bring the stories of women, including recipients of the Victorian Honour Roll of Women, to metropolitan and regional audiences in 2017.

Her Place Women's Museum Australia is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, registered with ASIC and is currently seeking tax deductibility status as a charity recognised by the ATO.

THE EXHIBITION

Her Place: Women in the West is an exhibition that honours the lives and contributions of women in Melbourne's West.

The second in a series of exhibitions presented by Her Place Women's Museum Australia, it celebrates their work, achievements and historical significance. Six of the women featured in the exhibition have been inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Established in 2001, the Honour Roll pays tribute to women who have been pioneers in their field and who have improved the lives of women and the broader Victorian community.

The lives and experiences of women have traditionally been under-represented in historical narratives, museum collections and the public sphere. Many women from the west have been additionally marginalised due to issues of race, economic status and access to education, making '*Her Place: Women in the West*' a rare opportunity to pay tribute to the many women who have risen above the challenges they have faced to make a mark on Melbourne's west and beyond.



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Credits 1. Susan Alberti, 2. Peta Searle, 3. Alice Pung, 4. Kerry Greenwood, 5. Joan Kirner. Photo taken by Anthony Leong, Modform. Image by EMILY'S List Australia Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 6. Paola Balla, 7. Melba Marginson, 8. Halima Mohamed, 9. Ruth Crow, 10. Maisie Carr nee Fawcett.

SUSAN ALBERTI AC

b. 1947

Susan Alberti is a businesswoman and a philanthropist who has been a major supporter of medical research, education and Australian Rules football. Alberti's involvement in the support of medical research began following the diagnosis and subsequent death of her only child, Danielle. She recently established the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars for medical research. As a young girl, Alberti loved Australian Rules football and was devastated when she reached her teenage years and was no longer permitted to play. Her passion for the game has never left her and she has been a key figure in the establishment of the AFL Women's league after many years of supporting the Victorian Women's Football League. Alberti served four terms on the board of the Western Bulldogs Football Club and, along with president Peter Gordon, was instrumental in saving the club from financial ruin in the 1990s. She stepped down as vice-president after the Bulldogs' historic premiership win in 2016. Susan Alberti has received many honours, among them an honorary Doctor of Laws from Monash University in 2006 and an honorary Doctor of the University from Victoria University in 2016. These honours recognise her outstanding service to the community through her philanthropy and advocacy for medical research, education and sport. She is a Member of the Order of Australia, an Officer of the Order of Australia and a Companion of the Order of Australia. She was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2014.

PAOLA BALLA

b. 1974

Paola Balla is a Wemba-Wemba and Gunditjmara woman with Italian and Chinese heritage. She is an artist, curator, writer, educator and speaker whose projects engage with the complexities of race and identity in history as well as the impacts of racism in contemporary society. Balla has worked as a senior curator on the First Peoples exhibition at the Melbourne Museum. In 2010 she developed the Footscray Community Arts Centre's first Indigenous Cultural Program and curated the exhibition Blak Side Story, which won the ArtsHub Contribution to Community Development award in 2011. She was the curator of *Executed in Franklin Street* at the City Gallery in 2015–16 which was Highly Commended in the Australia and New Zealand Museums and Galleries Awards for Indigenous Projects. She is also the co-curator of *Sovereignty*, an exhibition of contemporary and historical works of art from First Nations peoples of south-east Australia at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in 2017. Balla's own art practice is driven by concerns for social justice and addresses the impacts of colonial trauma, particularly on women and children. Her work is personal, drawn from her own experiences and that of her family, and in turn reflects upon the nature of Australian society and history. In 2011 and 2014 she won the Victorian Indigenous Art Award for Three Dimensional Works. Paola is a member of the Moondani Balluk Indigenous Academic Unit at Victoria University, where she is currently undertaking a Creative Thesis PhD as the inaugural Lisa Belleair Indigenous Research Scholar.

RUTH CROW

1916–1999

Ruth Crow was a passionate political and community activist for all of her adult life. Born in Ballarat, she studied in Melbourne, completing a Diploma of Institutional Management and Dietetics followed by studies in social work at the University of Melbourne. She took a keen interest in the health and nutrition of women and children during the Second

World War and worked in various jobs relating to food and dietetics before moving on to roles in childcare and youth clubs. Together with her husband Maurie, Ruth Crow was a lifelong member of the Communist Party and gained the tag 'Red Ruth'. Throughout her life, she worked tirelessly in support of services for children, nutrition, energy conservation and housing. She was a dedicated member of the North Melbourne Association and advocated for responsible and sustainable urban development in Melbourne. In 1972 she and Maurie received the Robin Boyd Award from the Victorian chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and in 1973 the Barrett Medal from the Town and Country Planning Association for 'notable contribution to planning'. In 1990 Ruth Crow donated her and Maurie's extensive collection of books, papers, pamphlets and artefacts to Victoria University Library. The Crow Collection is an important resource for researchers investigating a broad range of social issues. Ruth Crow was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1993 and was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2008.

MAISIE CARR NEE FAWCETT

1912-1988

Stella Grace Maisie Carr nee Fawcett was a botanist whose work with soil erosion revolutionised farming and grazing practices throughout Victoria's High Country. Born and raised in Footscray, she was a keen student and won scholarship places at Melbourne High School and the University of Melbourne. Fawcett's mentor, botany professor John Turner, recommended her for a position studying the effects of soil erosion in the Hume Reservoir catchment area. She lived on her own in Omeo and learnt to ride a horse so that she could go out with the farmers to view the soil conditions of the region. Known as 'The Washaway Woman' and 'The Woman from Pretty Valley', she proved that common farming and grazing practices were causing soil erosion and damage to water reservoirs in the High Country. She covered vast territories on horse-back and became an expert on the history and ecology of alpine Australia. By 1949, Fawcett was back at the University of Melbourne, where she was a much-loved and respected lecturer in the botany department. Frustrated by the limitations of existing texts, she oversaw the publication of *The Families and Genera of Victorian Plants*, which became a key textbook. Fawcett married fellow botanist Denis Carr in 1955. Together they travelled widely and worked in Belfast before moving to Canberra in 1967 to take up positions at the Australian National University. The University of Melbourne's Maisie Fawcett Scholarships and Monash University's D.J. and S.G.M. Carr Travelling Scholarships recognise her significant contribution to academic research.

KERRY GREENWOOD

b. 1954

Kerry Greenwood is one of Australia's most prolific and successful writers. She grew up in Footscray, the daughter of a father who was a wharfie as well as a storyteller and a mother who was an avid reader with a love of history. As a child, Greenwood often made up stories to entertain herself and her siblings, and she wrote her first novel at the age of 16. Greenwood is the author of more than 40 novels, six non-fiction works, books for young adults and a number of plays. She has also edited two collections. She is best known for her *Phryne Fisher* series that features a fearless and glamorous female detective in 1920s Melbourne. The series, currently running to 20 titles, has been made into a hit television drama that has to date run to three seasons, and that has in turn inspired a number of exhibitions showcasing the costumes worn by actress Essie Davis. Greenwood is also the author of the Corinna Chapman crime series and the *Delphic Women* series. Greenwood studied English and law at the University of

Melbourne and worked as a solicitor for Victoria Legal Aid for more than 20 years. She lives in Footscray with her partner of more than 40 years, David Greagg, an accredited wizard. Greenwood has won numerous awards for her writing including the Sisters in Crime Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award and the Ned Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award.

JOAN KIRNER

1938-2015

Joan Kirner was a passionate feminist, community activist and Labor politician who, in 1990, became Victoria's first, and to date only, female premier. Proud of her working-class origins, she credited her parents and grandparents with inspiring her community activism and labour politics. When her three young children were in school, she became actively involved in improving the education system for all children through her work with the Victorian Federation of State School Parents Clubs and the Australian Council of State School Organisations. Kirner entered state politics as Labor MLC for Melbourne West in 1982. She continued her strong support of state school education through the Disadvantaged Schools Program and the integration of children with disabilities within regular schools. She was also co-founder of Landcare, a community-based movement working to care for the land. After leaving parliament in 1994, Kirner continued her activism in women's organisations such as EMILY's List Australia, which supports progressive women's pathways into parliament. Joan Kirner was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2001. At the time of her death, Premier Daniel Andrews stated: 'She fought every day for fairness. Our state is stronger for her service and our lives are greater for her friendship. She was our first female premier and because of her work, she won't be the last.'

MELBA MARGINSON

b. 1953

For nearly 30 years, Melba Marginson has been an influential advocate, trainer and mentor for migrant and refugee women in Australia. Melba Marginson (nee de Guzman) was born in Manila. In 1970, at the age of 16, she enrolled at the University of the Philippines. She joined the Philippine national democratic movement in 1973 and, after working as a teacher, became the secretary-general of a left-wing national teachers federation. In 1988, she addressed an education conference in Perth, where she met her future husband – Australian academic Simon Marginson. She moved to Australia after their marriage and soon became involved in campaigns to combat the domestic violence often experienced by Filipina women in Australia. In 1994, her work helped bring about the introduction of the Domestic Violence Provisions to the Immigration Act. She has helped establish a number of organisations including the Centre for Philippine Concerns – Australia and the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition. Marginson is currently a director of the Northern Health Board and a member of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia's Women's Committee. She has served as a director of the Victorian Women's Trust and was appointed a commissioner of the Victorian Multicultural Commission by the state Labor government in 2000. Marginson was inducted onto the inaugural Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2001. In 2014 she was recognised as one of The Australian Financial Review and Westpac '100 Women of Influence in Australia' and was a finalist in HESTA's Social Impact Award.

HALIMA MOHAMED

b. 1956

Halima Mohamed has been a community activist for nearly 30 years. Born in Somalia, she worked in parliament there for more than 10 years. In Australia, her work has been no less transformative. Mohamed's passion is in building and nurturing communities; whether that is breaking down historic boundaries among Somali women or forging relationships between refugees and non-refugees. She has led initiatives such as the African Women's Social Enterprise, in partnership with a number of organisations, before establishing Skilling Employment and Aid Enterprises Australia Inc. (SEAEA Inc.) in partnership with Green Collect in Yarraville. Mohamed has recruited a group of women to cook Somali and Western food for students at Kensington Primary School, a program that has resulted in better nutrition for students while deepening their understanding of Somali culture. It has also assisted the women to develop their English-language skills and to gain a sense of belonging within the community. Mohamed has established a sewing group for African women in Footscray. While sewing, the women learn English and hear talks from guest speakers on topics that assist them to gain employment, navigate cultural and bureaucratic differences or start their own businesses. Mohamed has also partnered with a range of organisations including the Brotherhood of St Laurence, who supported the creation of SEAEA Inc., AMES Australia, RMIT University, the West Footscray, Rotary Club and the New Hope Foundation. She was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2008.

ALICE PUNG

b. 1981

Alice Pung is a bestselling writer whose work spans fiction, memoir, nonfiction and children's fiction. A recurring theme of her work is the importance of acknowledging Asian-Australians as part of Australia's national identity and her creative output is striking for its ability to communicate this to a broad readership of varying ages. Pung was born in Footscray a month after her Chinese-Cambodian parents arrived in Australia. Her father was a survivor of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, his experiences recounted by Pung in her award-winning book *Her Father's Daughter*. Pung grew up in Footscray and Braybrook and works such as *Unpolished Gem* and *Laurinda* draw on her experiences. She was editor of the pivotal collection *Growing Up Asian in Australia* and is also author of the *Marly* series of books for children. Pung has won numerous awards, including the Australian Book Industry Newcomer of the Year Award, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature and the Western Australian Premier's Book Award for Non-Fiction. She has also been shortlisted several times for the Victorian and NSW Premiers' Literary Awards and for the Queensland Literary Awards. Her work has been translated into numerous languages, sold throughout the US, Asia and Europe, and taught in secondary schools and universities in Australia and abroad. Pung is a practising lawyer who currently works in the areas of pay equity and minimum wages.

PETA SEARLE

Peta Searle has played a significant role as an agent for change within Victoria's sporting community and is recognised for her advocacy for gender equality both on and off the field. For more than 20 years, Searle has been a leader in the involvement of women in Australian Rules football at both community and professional levels. In 2014 she was appointed as Development Coach at St Kilda Football Club, the first female coach in the AFL. Searle was previously coach of the Darebin Falcons in the Victorian Women's

Football League. During her time as coach, the team won five consecutive premierships. Searle was the first female coach in the VFL. She was assistant coach to Gary Ayres at Port Melbourne and played a key role in their 2012 title defence. She has been head coach at the VFL Women's Academy and was head coach for the Western Bulldogs Women's team for the AFL's first exhibition match in 2013. Searle has demonstrated that women can coach male teams and she has paved the way for more women to lead in the development of men's as well as women's sports. She is a regular guest speaker at schools and events, inspiring women and girls to be involved in sport as players, coaches, managers and board members. Peta Searle was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in March 2017.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The exhibition is accompanied by a program of public discussions, educational programs and workshops that explore current and topical issues affecting women of all ages today.

Everyday Documents and Australian Women's History: Why Archives Matter

Wednesday 15 March, 6-8pm FREE

Join us for a panel discussion about the role of serendipity, family stories and fragments of paper in the writing of history, including so-called 'big picture' academic history. Germaine Greer described archives as 'the pay dirt of history': this panel of historians and archivists will talk about some examples of 'pay dirt' that have made a difference to their research into Australian women's lives.

Audience members are invited to bring examples of their own pay dirt and stories of women in their past to share. No document or serendipitous example is too ordinary if it shines light on the diversity of Australian women's historical lives!

The panel will be convened by Dr Nikki Henningham, Research Fellow – Australian Women's Archives Project.

In-conversation with Women in the West

Friday 17 March, 12.30-1.30pm FREE

Join us for an informal lunchtime conversation with the women featured in the exhibition including Halima Mohamed and Paola Balla as well as Ruth Crow researcher Claire Collie.

Loving Feminist Literature: Decolonising Feminism, Building Solidarity

\$10 full/\$5 concession

Monday 20 March, 5.30-8.30pm

A night of live readings of bold and irresistible feminist texts by a selection of diverse feminist educators, students and practitioners, including Clare Land, who will read from her book *Decolonizing Solidarity*. Audience will be invited to participate in discussions that celebrate and re-invigorate collective feminist praxis and love across difference.

Her Place: Women in the West – Walking Tour

Wednesday 22 March, 6-7pm FREE

A guided walk through Footscray focusing on the lives of women who have made a difference and contributed to the West hosted by Chantal Wynter. Over the course of

the walk you will hear about women of tenacity – leaders, advocates, storytellers and speakers of injustices. Through the spoken word and recounted experiences, women, both past and present, will be celebrated inspiring the next generation of women and men. Comfortable shoes and wet weather gear recommended. Please get in touch for wheelchair access

Building Feminist Communities

Thursday 30 March, 6-8pm FREE

In light of a shifting political landscape the work of feminists is about to intensify. Now is the time to once more organise and collectivise. This event will bring together academics, activist groups and philanthropic organisations to showcase their work and share their aspirations for 2017. Feminists across all sectors will have the opportunity to get together, meet others and build partnerships. Nibbles, drinks and music by an all-female band, Kerryn Fields and the Dudettes.

Hosted by the Victoria University Feminist Research Network, a community of feminist scholars from Victoria University in conjunction with Her Place.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Teaching Gender Equality: a Professional Development for Teachers

Monday 27 March, 5-7pm, VU at MetroWest Gallery, FREE (snacks provided)

This program will be delivered by experienced teachers and will cover:

- Building a Feminist Collective at your school: Briony O'Keeffe , Fitzroy High Fem Collective.
- Getting a Gender Equality Policy in your Primary School: Why it's important and how to do it – Jess Duncan from Derrimut Primary School.
- Respectful Relationships Education: Whole School Approach. What is DET doing? Barb Jennings, Women's Officer, AEU.

To learn more about how you can book your school class in for a guided tour visit our website www.herplacemuseum.com

To book visit www.herplacemuseum.com/about/public-programs/

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA COPY

#herplace #womensmuseumnow #womenpopueverywhere

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The second in a series of exhibitions presented by Her Place Women's Museum Australia, it celebrates their work, achievements and historical significance. Six of the women featured in the exhibition have been inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Established in 2001, the Honour Roll pays tribute to women who have been pioneers in their field and who have improved the lives of women and the broader Victorian community.

Her Place is a not-for-profit organisation that celebrates the social, civic and entrepreneurial achievements of all Australian women and their role in shaping our nation.

Link to: www.herplace.com/current-exhibitions

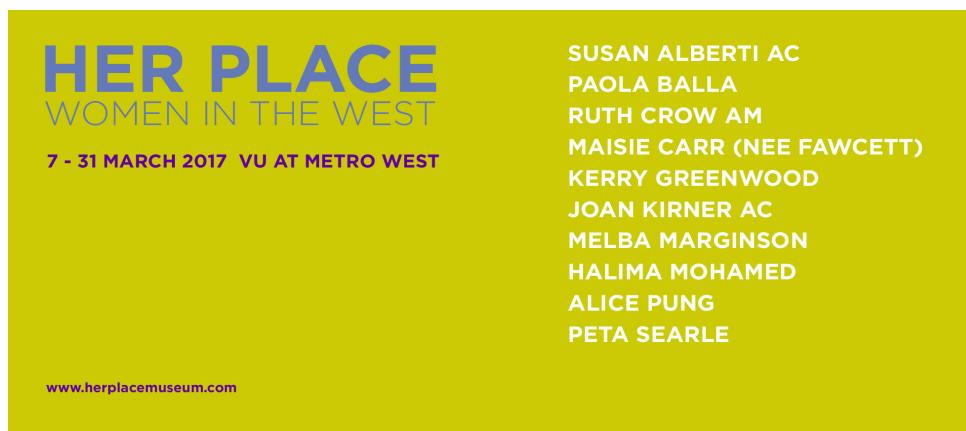


Image: WOW_24_COLOUR.jpg

POST 1

SUSAN ALBERTI: As a young girl, Susan Alberti loved Australian Rules football and was devastated when she reached her teenage years and was no longer permitted to play. Discover how Alberti turned this injustice into a life-long cause, one that she pursued alongside running a business and supporting medical research and education at the exhibition Her Place: Women in the West exhibition opening tomorrow at VU at MetroWest. #herplace #womensmuseumnow #womenpopupeverywhere <https://herplacemuseum.com/exhibition/future-exhibitions/>

Image: Susan Alberti

POST 2

EXHIBITION: Head over to VU at MetroWest and celebrate the achievements of women by taking in the stories of some incredible women each contributing to making the world a more just and inclusive place. Her Place: Women in the West (7-31 March 2017), 138 Nicholson Street, Footscray. Open 9am-5pm. www.herplacemuseum.com #herplace #womensmuseumnow #womenpopupeverywhere

Image: Banner 9WOW_24_COLOUR.jpg)

POST 3

HER PLACE: WOMEN IN THE WEST Join in the dynamic program of events part including public discussions, educational programs and workshops that explore current and topical issues affecting women of all ages today. #herplace #womensmuseumnow #womenpopupeverywhere Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/her-place-women-in-the-west-tickets-32220824353?aff=ehomecard>

Image: Chantal Wynter, walking tour. Photographer: Shuttermain.